

CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. A water cooler comprising:

2 (a) a housing;

3 (b) a water source;

4 (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said
5 water source;

6 (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;

9 (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet
10 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose
11 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an
12 outlet hose;

13 (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and

14 (g) a control circuit with a sensor for activating
15 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1 2. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet
2 hose includes a filter to prevent passage of particles of a
3 predetermined and larger size into said pump.

1 3. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drain
2 hole is composed of a plurality of small holes sized to
3 prevent passage of particles of a predetermined and larger
4 size through said drain hole.

1 4. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1 5. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said
4 inlet hose.

1 6. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid
3 for drainage.

1 7. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1 8. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is a
2 peristaltic pump or a diaphragm pump.

1 9. A water cooler comprising:

2 (a) a housing;

3 (b) a water source;

4 (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said
5 water source;

6 (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;

9 (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet
10 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose
11 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an

12 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a
13 diaphragm pump;

14 (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose;

15 (g) an in-line filter in said inlet hose to prevent
16 passage of particles of a predetermined and larger size into
17 said pump; and

18 (h) a control circuit with a sensor for activating
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1 10. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1 11. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said
4 inlet hose.

1 12. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said inlet
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid
3 for drainage.

1 13. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said pump is
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1 14. A water cooler comprising:

2 (a) a housing;

3 (b) a water source;

4 (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said
5 water source;

6 (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor, said
9 drain hole being comprised of a plurality of small holes,
10 said small holes being sized to prevent passage of particles
11 of a predetermined and larger size through said drain hole;

12 (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet
13 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose
14 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an
15 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a
16 diaphragm pump;

17 (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and

18 (g) a control circuit with a sensor for activating
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1 15. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip
2 tray includes a strainer covering said open top.

1 16. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip
2 tray is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is
3 long enough to permit said removal without disconnecting
4 said inlet hose.

1 17. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said inlet
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid
3 for drainage.

1 18. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said pump is
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.